NRCS Official makes a Preliminary Technical Determination. Notification is sent providing the participant with appeal and mediation rights. The preliminary technical determination automatically becomes final 30 calendar days from the date of the notification unless the participant requests:

- a field visit and reconsideration;
- mediation; and/or
- appeal rights to the FSA county/area committee.

Field visit is requested. NRCS and District representative (if they wish to participate), conduct field visit within 30 calendar days. Participant informed of final determination. The administrative record is assembled with all information relative to the technical determination.

Mediation is chosen. NRCS and District Representative (if they wish to participate) prepares for mediation. A field visit, if one has not been conducted should be done to ensure that all possible solutions have been explored. Mediation is conducted within 30 calendar days of the request. The administrative record is assembled.

Participant appeals the final technical determination to the FSA county/area committee. If a field visit has not been conducted, one must be completed prior to the hearing. The administrative record is assembled (if not done previously) and a legible copy is provided to the FSA county/area committee.

If there is a question about the technical determination, the FSA county/area committee must request that the State Conservationist review the issue and render a technical determination in writing to the FSA county/area committee. The FSA county/area committee must base its decision on the State Conservationist technical determination.

Further rights are offered by the FSA county/area committee as follows:

- appeal to FSA State committee* are offered, if applicable;
- mediation; and
- appeal to NAD.

*On purely technical determinations, appeal to the FSA State committee is not available.

Participant makes formal appeal to NAD.